

Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District

Regulatory Branch (1145) CEPOA-CO-R-NF 3437 Airport Way, Suite 206 Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4777

# **Public Notice** of Application for Permit

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: February 1, 2007

**EXPIRATION DATE:** 

March 5, 2007

REFERENCE NUMBER:

POA-2006-1051-4

WATERWAY:

Chena Slough

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plan.

APPLICANT: Alaskan Home Solutions, Inc., 607 Old Steese Highway, Suite B #146, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99701

AGENT: Mr. Jeremy Stark, Stutzmann Engineering Assoc., Inc., Post Office Box 71429, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99707

LOCATION: The proposed project is located within Tax Lot 803, section 8, T. 2 S., R. 2 E., Fairbanks Meridian; Latitude 64.7502° N., Longitude 147.3801° W.; Kimberly Lake Subdivision (preliminary), in North Pole, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose for the proposed project is to develop a residential subdivision by mining gravel from the on-site gravel pit.

WORK: The applicant proposes to place approximately 51,100 cubic yards (CY) of fill material into approximately 16.2 acres of wetlands as part of the construction of roads, house and condominium pads, driveways, and landscaping for a residential subdivision in accordance with the attached plans, sheets 1-4, dated January 29, 2007. This also includes fill for the staging and storage area adjacent to the east side of the pit.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Eleven (11) of the lots would require fill in wetlands for house pads, driveways, and septic. The typical lot fill for these 11 lots would be approximately 0.29 acres and 995 CY of fill per lot (sheet 3 of 4) for a total of 3.2 acres and 11,000 CY of fill. The planned source for gravel is the existing gravel pit on the property. The gravel pit will be cleaned up and reclaimed at the end of the project.

The staging and storage area, approximately 5.9 acres and 19,000 CY of fill, would most likely be developed into multiple family housing (condominiums) after gravel extraction is completed. An additional 3.7 acres of wetlands and 12,000 CY of fill on Tract A would be filled for development of multiple family housing in 2008-2009 (sheet 2 of 4).

Roseanne Court would be a minor collector road, 22 feet wide and 1280' in length with a cul-de-sac at the terminus. The State of Alaska DOT (ADOT) plans to construct Homestead Road in 2007 or 2008. If the Homestead Road construction by ADOT does not take place in 2007, the applicant plans to build the road. Homestead Road would be a major collector road, 28 feet wide and 2640 feet in length. This application includes construction of Homestead Road by the applicant. Road construction totals 3.5 acres and 9,100 CY of fill (sheet 4 of 4).

A 50' natural vegetative buffer would be left adjacent to emerging wetlands to the north of the subdivision (sheet 2 of 4). Drainage note on preliminary subdivision plat states:

'Existing natural drainage courses will be protected as retention areas for runoff as apart of this subdivision except for the southeasterly portion of the existing low area shown hereon. This portion of the low area has been previously disturbed and partially filled. The majority of this low area within lots 11 & 13 has been previously disturbed and will be filled during development of the lots. Road ditches within the subdivision will be graded relatively flat. General drainage within the subdivision will trend to the gravel pit and the existing low area in the north portion of the subdivision. A more specific drainage plan will be developed during construction when on the ground features are more accessible.'

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are no listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer at this time, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between the Federal government and Federally recognized Tribes. This notice invites participation by agencies, Tribes, and members of the public in the Federal decision-making process. In addition, Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This Public Notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Engineer during the public comment period.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect threatened or endangered species, or modify their designated critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed work is being evaluated for possible effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996 (MSFCMA), 16 U.S.C. et seq and associated federal regulations found at 50 CFR 600 Subpart K. The Alaska District includes areas of EFH as Fishery Management Plans. We have reviewed the January 20, 1999, North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Environmental Assessment to locate EFH area as identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

We have determined that the described activity within the proposed area will not adversely affect EFH, including anadromous fish and federally managed fishery resources.

#### SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: None.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Debby McAtee at (907) 474-2166 or by email at Deborah.J.McAtee@poa02.usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States - Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

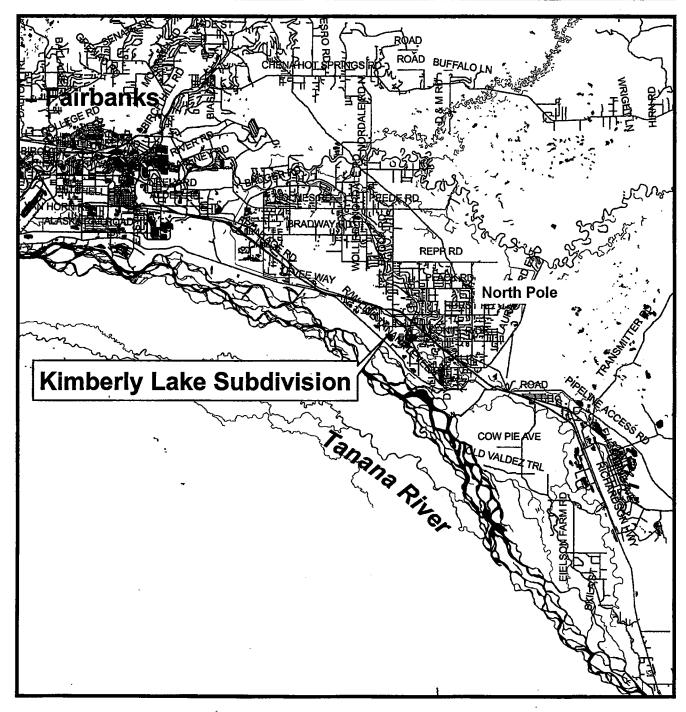
A plan, and Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are attached to this Public Notice.

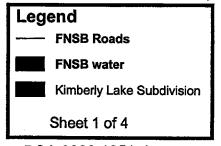
District Engineer U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

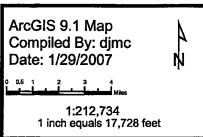
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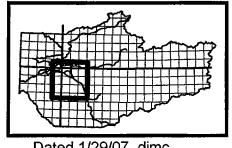
Attachments

### Vicinity Map



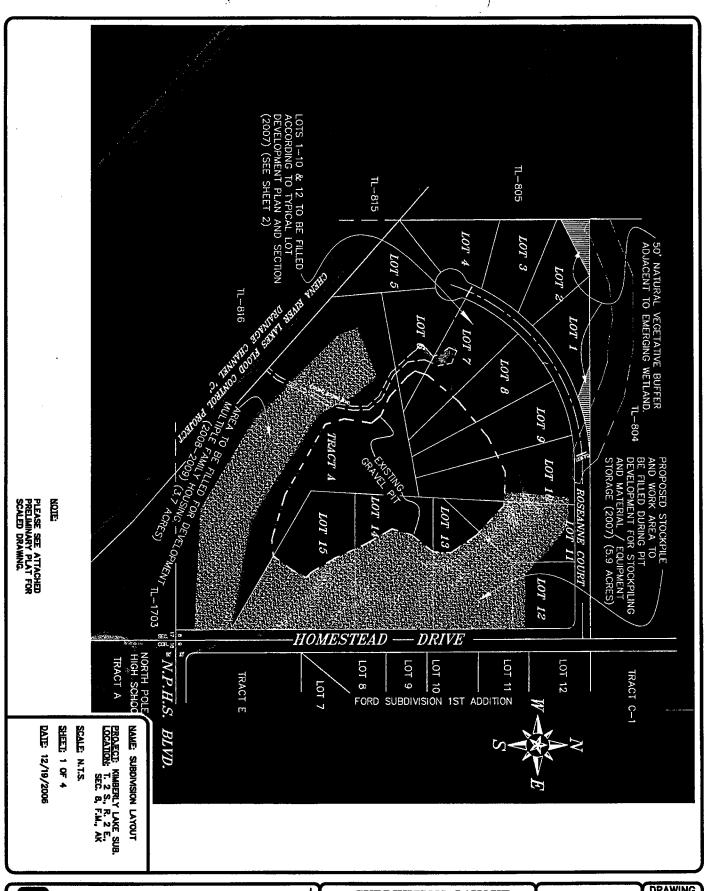


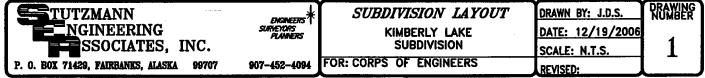


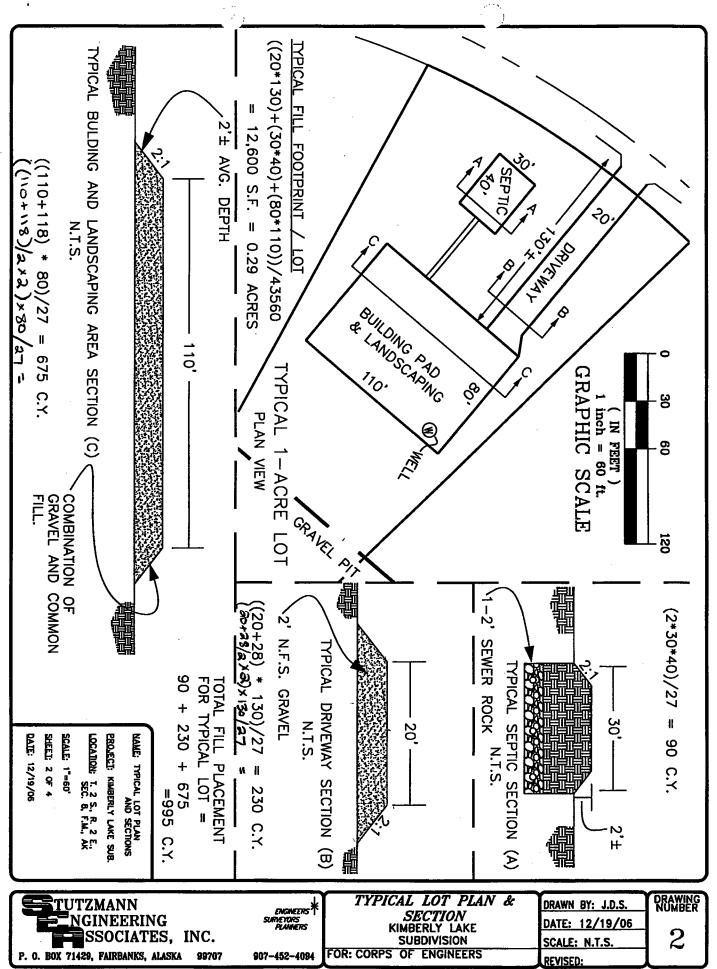


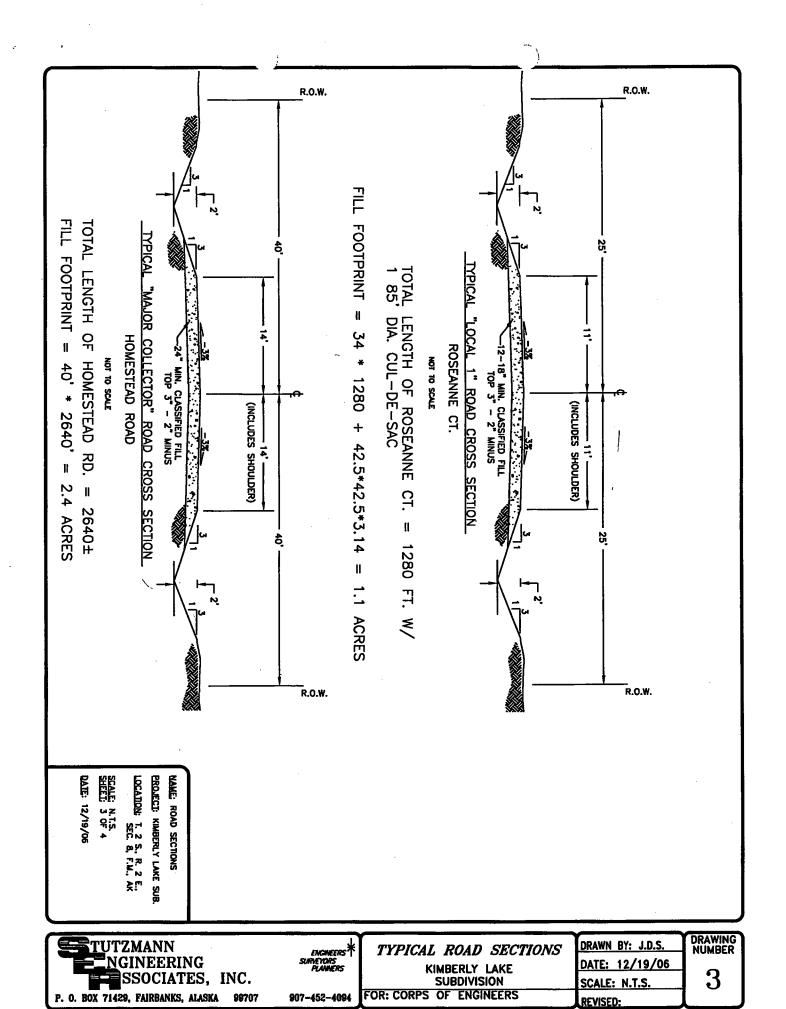
Sheet 1 of 4

Dated 1/29/07 djmc









## STATE OF ALASKA

### **DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

DIVISION OF WATER

401 Certification Program
Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

# NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER OUALITY CERTIFICATION

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No POA 2006-1051-4, Chena Slough, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify that there is reasonable assurance that the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification may submit written comments within 30 days of the date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice to:

Department of Environmental Conservation WQM/401 Certification 555 Cordova Street Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2617 Telephone: (907) 269-6281 FAX: (907) 269-7508